

QUALITY SOCCER BEATS

THE AVENUE

Wanderers' Wing Power

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Walthamstow Av. 0

THE chemistry, as Danny Blanchflower would say, is really beginning to mix. For the second successive week — writes Argus — cultured, confident Wycombe Wanderers put on a soccer show good enough to account for any amateur opposition in the land and Isthmian leaders Walthamstow Avenue, decisively beaten in every phase of the game, can count themselves lucky to leave Loakes Park with only two goals against them.

Wycombe, generating a terrific zest for the game, thrilled their fans by the sheer quality of the football they produced. Many of the Loakes Park faithful left the ground declaring that this performance was as good as anything seen in the great days of the club.

Avenue could have no alibis. Their international flavoured forward line could manage only one shot of any consequence at goalkeeper Ken Brown. Their defence was repeatedly slit open as if by a scalpel.

Despite the fact that Peter James, the destroyer of Dulwich, was kept in check by Avenue's experienced, elegant centre-half Stan Prince and that inside-left Tommy Holmes was painfully off form, the Wanderers attack was able to dominate the game on the wings.

Both the goals—beauties—came from wingmen Len Worley and Steve Hyde, and these two opportunists were easily the most dangerous forwards on the field. Worley, who had left back Roy Betts miserably beaten for speed and reflexes, belied his reputation as a shot-shy winger. His willingness to shoot clearly took Avenue by surprise.

It was Worley who dribbled past two defenders in the third minute to send a delayed drive angling past deputy goalkeeper Derek Grainger. He was to shoot twice more against the Walthamstow woodwork.

FLOWING SWEETLY

Feinting, fooling, flicking the ball through the gaping gaps in the Avenue defence, George Blait helped to form as classy a right wing as any in the Isthmian League. He is certainly the most manoeuvrable Wanderer in a tight corner.

Encouraged by perfect distribution from wing-halves Dave Thomas and Charles Gale, the Wycombe forwards kept the ball flowing sweetly on the ground

and Grainger had one of the hottest afternoons of his career. One of his chief tormentors was Steve Hyde, who headed a 23rd minute picture goal from a James centre and was always thirsting for action.

Avenue could have been four goals down at the interval. They avoided this humiliation by the skin of their teeth and although they improved in the second half could offer no serious threat to Ken Brown.

The years and John Fisher caught up with the famous Jim Lewis. Slower, less volatile, more fallible this season, Lewis was made to look a very ordinary mortal by Fisher whose positioning and calm play could not be bettered. There was only one brief hint of international class from Roy Agar who lined up at inside-left against Thomas, and Gale added Alan Minall to the list of inside-rights he has mastered since quitting the Corinthian League.

Walthamstow wingers Reg Groves and Brian Harvey were no luckier. Both full backs, John Beck and Alistair Lewis, were calmness personified. So relieved was the dapper little Groves to escape Lewis that he frequently hurried his centres — straight

into the welcoming arms of Brown.

In the closing stages Wycombe had so effectively stifled any hint of a Walthamstow recovery that they made raid after raid on the Avenue goal.